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DURHAM COUNTY HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE INVENTORY

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## ANDREWS CHAPEL

### 1843, 1890, 1927, 1977

Junction SR 1907 and SR 1906, Lynn Crossroads vicinity



According to church tradition, Methodist circuit riders came from Raleigh approximately once a month during the 1830s to preach in a log schoolhouse at a location known as Chapel Church. In 1843 a one-room sanctuary identified on the 1871 Fendel Bevers map of Wake County, was built, and it housed the congregation until 1890 when a larger church was constructed. The vacant 1910 Chandler School building was purchased in 1927, and the second church building was dismantled and moved to the site. The school became the house of worship, and a parsonage was constructed with materials from the earlier church. The parsonage was sold in 1939 so that improvements could be made to the sanctuary, and when these were completed, it was repurchased and returned to service as a fellowship hall. The addition of a steeple to the sanctuary in 1977 concluded its fifty-year transformation from school to church.

The Andrews Chapel is a one-story, cross-winged, gable-roofed structure that stands over brick piers with block infill. Construction is frame; walls are covered with vinyl siding and the roof with asphalt shingles. From its days as a school, the building retains large rectangular window openings though transoms are now covered with composition board and siding and stained glass panels have replaced the original double-hung sashes. The steeple is placed on the roof ridge of a small entry wing that projects north. Across a parking lot east of the church, the parsonage-turned-fellowship hall is a frame one-story bungalow that has a gable entry and an engaged full-facade front porch with boxed columns on brick pillars. Behind the fellowship hall, there is a large covered picnic shelter. The congregation continues to use a cemetery established at the site of the original church. Here fieldstones mark a number of burials and inscribed gravestones date from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## FENDEL BEVERS HOUSE

### CA. 1850 (SL)

SR 1906 .8 mi. west of SR 1908, Lynn Crossroads vicinity



Along the early road from Raleigh to Hillsborough, civil engineer Fendel (Fendol) Bevers (Beavers) constructed what is now Durham County's best-preserved I-house with Greek Revival styling ca. 1850. Standing over a fieldstone foundation, the house has an archetypal elongated form, a low hip roof, and end chimneys with ashlar (squared) stone bases, a feature not commonly found in Durham County. Fenestration is regular, and windows, six-over-nine on the first floor and six-over-six on the second floor, have four-part surrounds ornamented with plain corner blocks. A nearly full facade hip-roofed front porch supported by narrow posts with sawn brackets organized into pairs at the entry and triples at corners is a late 19<sup>th</sup> century addition. Framing with corner block ornaments midway between the entry and windows on end bays identifies the approximate location of an earlier porch. An early entrance on the east facade that has been covered with weatherboard is marked in the same way. A one-story ell was added to the rear of the dwelling in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The interior of the main block has a center hall plan and is remarkably intact; original flooring, sheathing, mantels, and double vertical panel doors are in place.

Late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century farm buildings surround the farmhouse. Notable among them is a weathered kitchen house with a hewn-timber frame and two entrances surmounted by transom lights. There are also tobacco barns, a log smokehouse, and various storage sheds.

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Fendel Bevers surveyed Wake County in 1869-70, dividing it into sixteen townships that replaced the antebellum captain's districts. His map, published in 1871, was instrumental in establishing the eastern borders of Durham County ten years later. Family members report that Bevers shortened the spelling of his surname to differentiate it from "Beaver," the name of the animal. In 1895, the house and farm were sold at auction to J. Elmer Ross, and later occupied by his son, Samuel.

## CHOPLIN PLACE CA. 1935

Junction SR 1815 (Pleasant Drive) and SR 2026, Hayes vicinity



A finely crafted fieldstone veneer distinguishes the charming rustic cottage built for the Choplin family ca. 1935. The one-and-a-half-story T-shaped dwelling has clipped gables, Craftsman windows, and a Craftsman-style front porch. Imaginative stone structures enhance the yard as well; a low stone wall surrounds the property in front, remnants of whimsical stone gateposts mark the entry, and a circular stone planter includes the base of a bird bath. In back, a saddle-notched round-log smokehouse or storage building is of the same vintage as the house.



## CLEMENTS FARMHOUSE

### EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

SR 1906, Nelson vicinity



Saw tooth shingles on the center gable decorate the frame Triple-A cottage house form used repeatedly by Durham County farmers from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century to the 1920s. This one, like most others, is three regular bays wide, flanked by single-shouldered brick end chimneys, and has a one-story rear ell. Its Craftsman-style front porch with tapered box columns on brick piers is a good example of the ca. 1930-40 replacements that updated many such dwellings. Outbuildings are storage sheds, doghouses, and a chicken house.

## EVANS HOUSE

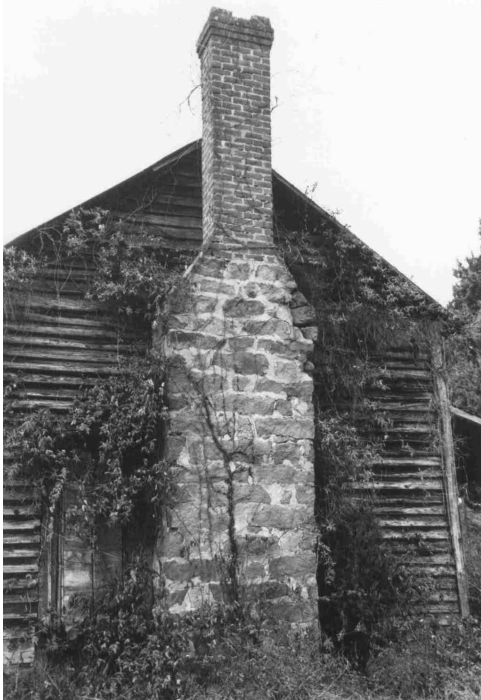
CA. 1850

SR 1973 .25 mi. north of SR 1967, Nelson vicinity



Descendants relate that nine generations of the Evans family have occupied the weathered log house built by John Evans, Jr., ca. 1850. Evans son, Reuben, reported to have been born in the house, was about twelve years old when Union soldiers raided the family farm near the end of

the Civil War. Among other items, peanuts belonging to the boy were taken. Young Reuben followed the soldiers to a nearby camp and informed the commanding officer that his men had stolen the peanuts, stating further that he considered the thieves neither gentlemen nor honest. The Union officer, apparently impressed by the boy's courage, made his soldiers apologize and return the peanuts.



Resting on its original fieldstone piers, the two-story side-gable house has a single fieldstone and brick end chimney. Particular to early houses, the chimneystack is free standing. As in many log structures, fenestration is irregular; an entry door (an early 20<sup>th</sup> century replacement) is located in the center of the front facade with windows offset to its right on both floors and on the gable end opposite the chimney. At least two layers of board siding have been superimposed on the logs;



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vertical board and batten siding thought to date from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century was covered with horizontal weatherboard siding in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. A front ell that adjoined the house on the north and a shed-roofed front porch have been demolished but a long one-story rear ell remains. The placement of siding shows that a breezeway and a shed porch have been enclosed. Except for a single tobacco barn and a deteriorated garage, outbuildings associated with the house have disappeared.



## EDGAR LEE FERRELL HOUSE

### CA. 1900

SR 1807, Oak Grove vicinity



A stately grove of mature oaks surrounds the well-proportioned Triple-A I-house constructed by farmer Edgar Lee Ferrell ca. 1901. The frame dwelling is classic with its three-bay facade, regularly placed four-over-four windows, and single-shouldered brick end chimneys. More unusual are decorative shingles on the center gable, and a shed-roofed front porch with slender tapered box-columned supports (hipped-roof porches are found more frequently). Interior finishes are largely obscured by modern wall coverings and ceiling tile but turned newels and balusters and columned, pilastered, mirrored, and bracketed mantels remain in place.

To accommodate his wife, Vergie, and their six children, Ferrell enlarged a rear ell several times and added a shed room at the back of the house. From a once-larger farmstead, a frame barn and log shed remain, and a deteriorating one-story, two-room, frame structure southwest of the house near the road may have been a school where Vergie Ferrell taught.

# HARGROVE HOUSE

## 1920s, 1950s

SR 1945 .3 miles north of SR 1121, Durham vicinity



A popular bungalow variation dating from the 1920s is found in this one-story hip-roofed shingle-covered dwelling with an engaged Craftsman-style front porch. Typical decorative elements include four-over-one Craftsman windows, a hip-roofed dormer with an eight-light window, and a half-shouldered chimney. A gable-roofed addition and a hip-roofed porch (now enclosed) were added to the rear of the house during the 1950s. Neighbors recall that a Mr. Hargrove who operated a small farm for many years built the dwelling. Outbuildings remaining near the house include a small gable-roof cottage, a well house, a corncrib, and a barn that has been converted to a garage.

## DR. WILLIAM NORWOOD HICKS HOUSE

### CA. 1860 (SL)

SR 1815 .8 mi. east of NC 98, Durham vicinity



According to family tradition, Dr. William Norwood Hicks, a physician in the Confederate army, manufactured patent medicine in the elongated, frame, side-gable I-house he completed just prior to the Civil War. It appears on the 1887 and 1910 maps of Durham County variously as belonging to Dr. W. N. Hicks and J. T. Hicks. The structure is very well preserved; it rests on brick and fieldstone piers with brick infill, has much original weatherboard siding, and six-over-six windows that retain many early panes. A hip-roofed front porch with narrow paired posts is a late 19<sup>th</sup> century replacement. Tall chimneys rise at the gable ends; on the north end, an original chimney is made of brick and fieldstone, and on the south end, its counterpart is a replacement made of brick laid in running bond. Roof eaves overhang on all four elevations reflecting the influence of the Italianate style while the interior has a center hall plan and simple Greek Revival trim including plain newels, post and lintel mantels, and two-panel and four-panel doors. A one-story ell extended to the rear has an enclosed porch.

# GEORGE WESLEY HOPSON HOUSE

## 1928

SR 1945 .1 miles from SR 1121, Lowe's Grove vicinity



In 1928 George Wesley Hopson built a frame pyramidal cottage with a prominent center gable, using simple Craftsman-style detailing to decorate the front of the dwelling. Battered columns on brick plinths support the hip-roof front porch, and four-over-one windows are placed asymmetrically around the house. The roof has been replaced with asphalt shingles but other exterior building materials are original.



Hopson raised chickens, hogs, cattle, tobacco, corn, and wheat on a farm of approximately 100 acres west of the house, working the land with two mules before purchasing a tractor in the late 1940s. Farm buildings behind the house include a milk house (now a storage shed) and a deteriorated frame barn. Five deteriorated buildings south of the house on an adjoining property were also part of the farm complex.

# LOWE'S GROVE SCHOOL

## 1910, 1920s, 1960 (SL)

Junction SR 1945 and NC 54, Lowe's Grove vicinity



Shortly after Durham County was formed in 1881, a rural community named for descendants of Stephen Lowe, a bricklayer who had come to Wake County in the 1770s, grew up in its southeastern sector. In 1889, Lowe's grandson, Edmund, and his wife, Patsy, were instrumental in organizing informal church services held at the Lowe's farm. A small group of people met first in the house but later found a farm building in a nearby grove of trees more to their liking. The community subsequently took its name, Lowe's Grove, from their meeting place.



In 1896 a one-room log and frame school building was brought on rolling logs pulled by mules from the Nelson community several miles away. This building, called the Little Red Schoolhouse, was replaced in 1903 by a more substantial structure, also known as the Little Red Schoolhouse, which stands today near the north end of the Lowe's Grove campus. The community voted for an extra tax to improve the facilities and a larger building with three classrooms, an auditorium, and a library was added in 1910.

In 1913, the state legislature passed the Farm Life Bill, setting aside \$2500 for “expert instruction in domestic science and agriculture.” A period of six months was then fixed by law as the minimum annual schooling period. The Lowe’s Grove School, already on a nine-month schedule, was one of two schools to receive a farm life grant from the state of North Carolina. The campus was expanded and a demonstration farm begun at the school to teach students practical farming technology and farm and household management as well as mathematics, Latin, history, physics, chemistry, and English. In 1922, when two hundred students were enrolled at the school and it received national publicity in *Colliers Magazine*, extensive renovations were made to the 1910 structure and construction of three additional buildings was undertaken. Completed by 1925, these four buildings made up Durham County's first all-brick school complex.<sup>1</sup>

Six handsome buildings now border a curved drive at the edge of a spacious lawn. At the north end, a south facing, brick, two-story, Colonial Revival structure with a gable roof and projecting end bays, dominates the campus. Its central block is enhanced by a pair of symmetrical neoclassical entrances framed with Doric pilasters carrying full entablatures. Designed by the Durham architecture firm of Rose and Rose, this building was added to the complex in 1928 as an elementary school. A large rectangular brick cafeteria wing with a pyramid roof was joined to its east elevation ca. 1960. Immediately south and set back from the drive beneath large oak trees is the Little Red Schoolhouse, a frame, one-room, gable-front structure with an attached hip-roofed porch. South of it, the four brick farm life school buildings border the drive; they are one-story Spanish eclectic-style structures with hip and mansard roofs. The northernmost, the renovated 1910 building, served as the grammar school. Now a large T-shaped structure with a hip and mansard roof of metal tiles, it has a projecting central entry pavilion ornamented with diamond-shaped tile insets. Next to it a rectangular structure with an asphalt shingle mansard roof and a neoclassical entry portico was the home economics building. Beside it, a small and plain rectangular building with a high mansard roof of metal tile was the vocational agriculture building. At the far south of the complex, the high school, a large one-story T-shaped building with a metal tile mansard roof and a prominent central entry bay divided by four pilasters, faces the elementary school across the campus. Except that windows and doors throughout the



complex are replacements and the roof of the home economics building has been covered with asphalt shingles, most original architectural details have been preserved, and the Lowe’s Grove School is an outstanding example of an all-grade public school that dates primarily from the 1920s. Until the campus was closed in 1989 and its functions moved to a modern facility across the road, the Little Red Schoolhouse was among the oldest continually operated school buildings in North Carolina.

1. Anderson, Jean Bradley, *Durham County*, Durham and London, Duke University Press, 1990, pp. 271-72 and the Catalogue of Lowe’s Grove Farm Life School Calendar 1925-26.

# HARVEY LUNSFORD HOUSE

## 1940

SR 1945, .8 miles from NC 54, Lowe's Grove vicinity



Harvey Lunsford's two-story, three-bay, frame Dutch Colonial, a favorite variant of the Colonial Revival style, is typical of those built around the nation from about 1920 through the 1940s. The house is weather boarded, and has continuous shed dormers on the second story level set front and back into a gambrel roof. Typical also is the arrangement of fenestration,



symmetry is emphasized on the main facade where banks of three windows with multiple lights flank a narrow-arched entry supported by consoles and second floor windows are singles and surmount the openings beneath. Secondary facades have asymmetrical fenestration; single windows are placed to suit the requirements of rooms inside except that a whimsical group of latticed windows serves the kitchen. Notable interior features include a columned entrance to the living room and a stylized brick fireplace surround.

Lunsford operated grocery stores in the South Alston Avenue area at three different locations over approximately 30 years. All were called "Harvey's Stop and Shop." The first store is located immediately south of the house, but it has been altered beyond significance as a historic structure.



## HERNDON-PAGE HOUSE

### 1849 AND 1910-15

SR 1945, .8 miles from NC 54, Lowe's Grove vicinity



A log house built in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century is said to be within the walls of this large, two-story, double pile dwelling. No trace of the earlier structure can be seen on the exterior; the dwelling is covered with artificial siding and has prominent Colonial Revival features that include a steep hip roof with a high-gabled attic dormer, wooden Tuscan columns that support a full-facade one-story front porch, and a paneled and trebeated entryway with half sidelights. One-over-one and two-over-two windows placed symmetrically around the house date from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The interior also has Colonial Revival-style features; rich heavy moldings decorate rooms that open off a wide center hall, and an ornate mantel is the focal point of the living room. However, a four-panel hand-planed and pegged door leading to a closet in the front parlor may be a survivor from the log structure. A flat-roofed ell at the rear of the house is thought to have been added around 1950. A carport, a small gable-roofed structure covered with metal siding (perhaps an early farm outbuilding?), and a flat-roofed storage shed are behind the house.

The Herndon-Page House stands on land that was part of a grant made to George Herndon by John, Earl Granville in 1770. Herndon's son or grandson, Lewis Herndon bequeathed a house and land to his wife Polly in 1817. At Polly's death, her estate was divided among five children with Lewis Herndon, Jr., and his wife Ann receiving title to a 500-acre farm on North East Creek. Lewis Herndon is said to have built a log house about 1849, which has been incorporated into the present Colonial Revival style dwelling. Before Durham County was

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formed in 1881, Herndon lands straddled the border of Orange and Wake Counties, and what is now Alston Avenue (SR 1945) once marked the boundary between the two counties.

The Herndons adopted their young cousin or nephew, Thomas Brinkley Hopson, and Lewis Herndon deeded land in Orange and Wake Counties to him in 1868. Ann Herndon's will left him an additional 500 acres, furniture, and livestock in 1879. In 1909 the house was sold to W. S. Page. During Page's ownership, the extensive Colonial Revival-style renovations were made to the dwelling. There were several additional owners before Excell O. Farrell, a descendent of Thomas Brinkley Hopson, purchased the house around 1985, returning it to family ownership.

## JONES HOUSE

### CA. 1900 (SL)

SR 1901 .15 miles west of SR 1900, Lynn Crossroads vicinity



A variety of intricate ornament gives the large, frame, tri-gable, I-house, said to have been constructed by the Jones family ca. 1900, an up-to-date turn-of-the-20<sup>th</sup> century appearance. Exterior end chimneys have corbelled caps; the roof has patterned metal shingles; a frieze board beneath the eaves is paneled; and a prominent center gable has rows of decorative shingles and a circular vent with a sawn work rosette. The interior, too, is ornate: machine-made mantels are different in each room; narrow beaded board wainscoting and siding cover walls; and turned balusters and an elegant newel with a ball finial line the stairs. A two-story rear ell with a high center gable similar to the one on the main block has one first-floor room with wide-board paneling and a post and lintel mantel. It appears to have been an earlier structure that was remodeled and enlarged at about the time the main block was constructed. After Charley Sandling, a tobacco farmer and miller, acquired the house, the long wrap-around porch was added ca. 1920. A descendant recalls that Sandling had the first telephone in the area and neighbors came to the house to make calls. Later owners, the Ashley and Parrish families, enclosed a portion of the porch on the ell to enlarge the kitchen and a porch on the west side of the ell to make space for a bathroom. At the entry, a single-leaf door has replaced an earlier double-leaf door and a sidelight (now covered with modern composition board) installed to fill a remaining space. More recent owners, Bill and Ann Cramer have replaced boxed porch columns with turned posts similar to remnants they found in storage on the property. Behind the dwelling, a pack house and several tobacco barns remain.

## MARTIN FAMILY HOUSE

CA. 1900

SR 1903, Lynn Crossroads vicinity



A shingled center gable adds decoration to a handsome turn-of-the-20<sup>th</sup> century Triple-A I-house, archetypal in its two-story, one-room deep form. In a common pattern, the dwelling is frame, has a three-bay entry facade, a hip roof front porch, single-shouldered brick end chimneys, a one-story rear ell, and is part of a small farmstead. In the 1940s, farmer Howard Martin bequeathed the property to his son, Vernon, who improved the ell, screened a recessed porch, and added a small shed at the rear. Associated outbuildings include a tobacco barn, a pack house, a corncrib, a barn, a chicken house, an early well, and an equipment shed.

## MASON-HAAS-THROWER HOUSE

### EARLY TO MID-19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

SR 1906 .1 mi. west of SR 1908, Lynn Crossroads vicinity



Among Durham County's earliest buildings, this two-story side-gable structure is said to have been a tavern and stagecoach stop on the early road between Raleigh and Hillsborough. Apart from tall proportions, however, it retains little of its original Federal-style character. A heavy timber frame with mortise-and-tenon joints is reportedly beneath weatherboard sheathing now covered by asbestos shingles, and the low-pitched roof is a replacement, perhaps for a roof with a steeper pitch more typical of the Federal style. The hip-roof front porch, thought to be a late 19<sup>th</sup> century addition, has 20<sup>th</sup> century porch posts. A double-shouldered end chimney of fieldstone and brick, shown in an earlier photograph, has recently fallen. On the front facade, fenestration is regular with three bays on the first floor and two bays above. Here six-over-six windows are early, but other windows and doors are mid-20<sup>th</sup> century replacements. On the interior there is only one room on the first floor, and although it has been extensively remodeled, elegant flat-paneled wainscoting on the front wall survives and a narrow boxed stair that leads to the second floor is in place. A one-story, gable-roofed, early and mid-20<sup>th</sup> century ell extends the width of the rear facade.

When the tavern operated, relays of horses were kept in a large barn that once stood nearby, and overnight guests are said to have stayed in a small log building that stands directly across the road. This structure has been covered with asbestos shingles and altered beyond any

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historic significance. J. B. Mason is the first owner of the tavern and its associated buildings on record in Durham County.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Interview with Mrs. Gwendolyn Thrower, mother of Tracie Thrower, the present owner, and Durham County Deed Book 46, p. 359.

# DOC NICHOLS HOUSE

## LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY, EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

NC 98, Oak Grove vicinity SE



Around the turn of the century, “Doc” Nichols built this large, two story Colonial Revival residence. The colossal front porch, ornamented by a roof balustrade, and other decorative details were added during the ownership of the Glover family, who bought the property from the Nichols’ estate in the 1940s. Anne Eakes, purchased the house in 1985 for use as a residence and an antique store.

As originally constructed, the house consisted of a massive main block, rectangular in plan, with a rear ell and small doctor’s office attached. The later porch diminishes the visual effect of the characteristic central dormer. The ridge of the high hipped roof is flanked by the tall, corbelled stacks of two brick interior chimneys. Windows consist of six-over-one and six-over-six double hung sash. The elaborate pedimented entrance dates from the period of mid-century remodeling carried out by Mr. Glover. He is said to have been a “happy woodworker” because



of the extensive amount of detail that he added to the residence. The one story rear ell also has a corbelled interior brick chimney. Much of its weatherboarded exterior matches the siding of the main block, though a porch, enclosed during the Glover period, has metal casement windows instead of double hung examples. The smaller hip-roofed appendage at the rear of the two-story portion once served as the office for Dr. Nichol’s medical practice. The separate entrance on its east side has been closed up, as is evident by

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ghost marks in the siding. A modern improved garage has been added to the western side of the main block.

The interior consists of a combination of original turn of the century features and Neo-Classical decoration from the 1940s and later. When not covered by acoustical tile, the ceilings consist of narrow beaded boards. Square newels and balusters support the original stair rail. Original doors exhibit five raised horizontal panels, with frames made up of molded lintels and uprights. Fireplaces include such characteristic features as flanking columns, paired overmantels, and brackets. While plastered walls are found in the principal rooms, beaded ceiling boards remain as interior finish of those secondary rooms that have not been remodeled. Other rooms display a variety of finishes. The two principal ground floor rooms have paneled walls, coved ceilings, dentil moldings, and a corner cupboard. Walls of pre-finished plywood sheets are found in the rear ell.

A three-bay frame barn and other storage buildings are typical of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The hip-roofed well enclosure remains, as well as a smokehouse with paired doors.





## NICHOLS-CHANDLER HOUSE

### EARLY 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

SR 1814, Oak Grove vicinity



According to Madison Chandler, his great great grandparents, Henry and Margaret Nichols, were the earliest occupants within memory of the side-gable hewn-log I-house he believes was built in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The couple's nineteen children were raised in the dwelling, which was then part of a 2000-acre farm in western Wake County.

The exterior of the house has been altered and covered with artificial siding, but it retains stately proportions and a large double-shouldered exterior end chimney on the north facade. In 1947, an ell at the rear of the house connected to the main block by a breezeway was demolished and replaced with a full-width frame shed. At the same time, a wraparound porch supported by brick pillars, and now partially enclosed, was added. Windows and doors are replacements, and a window has been sandwiched between the door and the parlor window on the north end bay breaking the symmetry of the original three-bay front facade. Small windows found on the second story are typical of log buildings.

Important interior details were preserved during the renovation. The house has its original hall-parlor plan and a very fine paneled mantel in the parlor. An enclosed corner stair accesses the second level, which retains wide flush-board paneling and another handsome early mantel.

# OLIVE BRANCH BAPTIST CHURCH

## 1925

Junction SR 1905 and NC 98, Oak Grove vicinity



A group of Baptists living in western Wake County formed a new congregation in 1875 and requested the services of student ministers at Wake Forest College. Rufus Ford became the first pastor of the new Olive Branch Baptist Church and the congregation met for worship in the Dayton Academy building (now demolished). After Ford graduated in 1878, other student pastors served until in 1924 professional clergy replaced them. The following year, the present church building, a unique structure in Durham County, was completed.

The Olive Branch Church is built over a raised basement in the shape of a cross; from a central block with a pyramid roof, a pedimented entry portal extends north, identical pedimented gable-roofed wings extend east and west, and a hip-roofed wing extends south. The basement is concrete, exterior walls above it are brick veneer laid in a running bond over a single soldier course, and gable-end pediments are stuccoed beneath artificial siding. Fenestration is regular; basement windows are surmounted by tall windows with transoms on the first floor and these by smaller windows on the clerestory that are placed on either side of each wing. A small octagonal belfry in the center of the roof caps the structure.

Behind the church, a large modern education building has been constructed and a cemetery occupies the site of the Dayton Academy. Graves of the Nichols, Suitt, Chandler, and Husketh families, among others, date from the mid-1920s to the present.

**PENNY FAMILY HOUSE****CA. 1830 (SL)**

SR 1846, Durham vicinity



The early 19<sup>th</sup> century frame one-and-a-half-story cottage, said to have been built for the Penny Family, has been moved from a location near the Wake County line and restored. The broad gable roof, prominent dormers, and engaged porch are typical of the Georgian and Federal-style cottages of eastern North Carolina. The six-panel front door appears to be original although other exterior fabric, including beaded weatherboard siding, chamfered porch posts, six-over-nine and four-over-six windows, and foundation piers, is new. Chimneys, no doubt at one or both gable ends of the earlier house, have been omitted in the restoration, and a new ell has been added at the rear.



Outbuildings include a 19<sup>th</sup> century log kitchen and an early 20<sup>th</sup> century barn, also thought to have been moved to the site and restored, and several sheds constructed in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. In the woods behind the dwelling, the Holloway-Freeman cemetery contains a small group of gravestones that include those of Noell Clay Holloway who died in 1917 and Needham Clay Freeman who died in 1923.

## SHERRON HOUSE

CA. 1926

SR 1926, Bethesda Vicinity SE



Highly representative of the bungalow style as built in Durham during the 1920s, this dwelling's exterior has remained substantially unaltered. The same family held ownership for more than thirty years. A 1926 plat map shows the house as part of the Sherron Estate.

Characteristic wide eaves supported by brackets are found on the gable ends, the central gabled porch, and the flanking dormers. The dormer and attic gable windows exhibit geometric patterns of small and large panes. The fascia board, which trims the lower edge of the truss spanning the width of the porch, incorporates ornamental applied brackets and a stepped design. The porch is carried on two massive tapered square columns rising from brick piers. It shelters an asymmetrical arrangement having a paired window on one side and the single-leaf entrance door on the other. A similar pair of windows is found beneath the dormer on each side of the porch. Windows feature seven-over-one, double hung sash, with the multi-pane component having a geometric configuration. Further variety of texture is provided to the weatherboarded exterior by the secondary entrance, sheltered by a stoop roof supported by brackets.

Both entrance doors display multi-pane glazing. Between the living room and the dining room is found a pair of fifteen-pane French doors. Apart from a brick mantel characteristic of the 1920s, the interior has lost much of its original finish to remodeling.

## EDWARD SORRELL HOUSE CA. 1900

Jct. SR 1981 and SR 1906, Lynn Crossroads vicinity



When his farm was needed for the Army Air Corps landing field, now the Raleigh-Durham Airport, during World War II, Edward Sorrell moved his one-story, frame, turn-of-the-20<sup>th</sup> century dwelling to its present site near Lynn Crossroads.

In a departure from Durham County's familiar rectangular house forms, Sorrell's dwelling has a T shape. The center-hall plan has been retained but on the eastern side of the house, one room and a rear ell have been shifted forward and a gable end on the exterior is oriented toward the road. A wide front porch with chamfered posts and sawn brackets wraps around a three-sided bay on the gable-front end that is decorated with multi-colored Queen Anne windows. Other windows, spaced regularly on eaves facades and gable ends, are two-over-two sash. Delicate triangles placed in a row across the tops of pedimented window and door surrounds, patterned shingles on gables, and circular gable vents studded with stars or crosses are creative sawn work ornaments. A rear shed that appears to be original to the house has a porch that has been enclosed later with German siding.

## THOMPSON'S STORE

### 1930s

SR 1973, Nelson vicinity



Another of the small commercial enterprises built to serve Durham County residents when the automobile first came into general use, this one-story frame structure housed a family-operated grocery store until 1976. Constructed by James G. Thompson in the 1930s, the building is a practical gable-front rectangle; it stands over a concrete-reinforced foundation, is covered by German siding, and has a sheet metal roof with shallow eaves and a brick stove chimney on the roof ridge. Beneath a wide stoop on the front facade, windows are placed to the right and left of a five-panel entry door and protected by wooden bars. A very small one-story frame building north of the store has identical finishing materials and was likely the storekeepers' cottage.



## WYNNE'S COMPLEX

### 1930s

Junction SR 1945 and NC 54, Lowe's Grove vicinity



The frame commercial building with the false parapet facade is the only intact early 20<sup>th</sup> century rural store remaining on South Alston Avenue. J. H. Wynne is reported to have built the structure in the 1930s. It housed a tractor and farm implement business until shortly after 1940 when he opened a grocery store. Wynne, and later his widow operated the store until about 1970. South of the store, the small gable-roofed bungalow with an engaged porch was built for the Wynne family in the early 1930s.



DURHAM COUNTY HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE INVENTORY

SOUTHEAST DURHAM QUADRANT